Exhibit 12 to the Request for Inter Partes Re-examination of

In re Patent No: 6,400,303

Issued: June 4, 2002

Applicant: Brad A. Armstrong

Title: Remote Controller with Analog Pressure Sensor (s)

Exhibit 37 to the Request for Inter Partes Re-examination of

In re Patent No: 6,351,205

Issued: February 26, 2002

Applicant: Brad A. Armstrong

Title: Variable-Conductance Sensor

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特開平5-190051

(43)公開日 平成5年(1993)7月30日

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H01H	13/00	С	7250-5G		
HOIC	10/10	Α			
H 0 1 H	13/52	F	4235-5G		

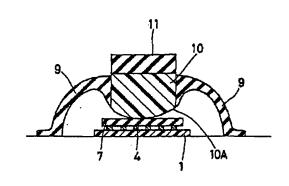
審査請求 未請求 請求項の数1(全 3 頁)

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(54)【発明の名称】 脇圧スイッチ

(57)【要約】

【目的】 耐久性を高め、安定した抵抗値を得られる。 【構成】 基板1の電板4上に載置された板状の感圧導 電ゴム7と、この感圧導電ゴム7を押圧する球面状の押 圧部10Aを備えた押圧子10とを有する。



1----基 板

4-----電極

10----押圧子

10A---- 押圧部

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 基板等の電極上に載置された板状の導電 ゴムと、この導電ゴムを押圧する球面状の押圧部を備え た押圧子とを有することを特徴とする感圧スイッチ。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】この発明は、感圧スイッチに関するものである。

[0002]

【従来の技術】スイッチの中には、例えば、図5に示す ものが知られている。

【0003】これは、第1の基板1に第2の基板2をスペーサ3を介して片持ち状に支持し、第1の基板1上に電極4間を抵抗体5で連結する一方、第2の基板2の先端に導電性ゴムから成る断面三角形状の接点6を取り付けたものである(特開平2-275603号公報)。

【0004】このスイッチにおいては、第2の基板2の 先端側に力Fが作用すると、第2の基板2が撓み、接点 6が抵抗体5上でつぶれを生ずる。力Fが大きくなると 接点6のつぶれ量が大きくなるため抵抗体5との接触面 積が増え、したがって、抵抗体5の実質的長さが小さく なり、抵抗値が下がるのである。

[0005]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら上記従来の感圧スイッチにおいては、接点6の先端が断面三角状に形成されていたため経時的使用によってこの接点6がへたりを生じたり変形するという問題がある。

【0006】これに対して、図4に示すように平板状の 導電ゴム7を基板1の電極4上に載置し、これを上方か ら押圧子8で加圧する構造のものが案出されているが、 押圧子8の加圧面が平面状であったため、除圧の際の加 圧面の離れ方に偏りがでてしまう等の理由により抵抗値 が不安定になってしまう。

【0007】そこで、この発明は耐久性があり、安定した抵抗値を得ることができる感圧スイッチを提供するものである。

[0008]

【課題を解決するための手段】基板等の電極上に載置された板状の導電ゴムと、この導電ゴムを押圧する球面状の押圧部を備えた押圧子とを有する。

[0009]

【作用】押圧子の押圧部を球面状に形成して加圧応力を 集中させると共に押圧子周辺への応力逃げを防止し、安 定した抵抗値変化を得る。

[0010]

【実施例】以下、この発明の一実施例を図面と共に説明 する。

【0011】図1に示すように、基板1の電極4上には、板状の導電ゴムとしての感圧導電ゴム7が載置されている。

【0012】感圧導電ゴム7はシリコンゴムを100重量部、FETカーボン50重量部に加硫剤を2重量部添加して形成された厚さ1mm程度の板状部材であって、加圧されると内部のカーボンの密度が高まると共に電極4と確実に接触するため、抵抗値が小さくなるものである。

【0013】そして、この感圧導電ゴム7にゴム製のスプリング9によって姿勢復帰可能に支持された樹脂製の押圧子10が対向配置されている。

【0014】押圧子10には、感圧導電ゴム7を押圧する押圧部10Aが設けられ、この押圧部10Aは球面状に形成されている。

【0015】尚、押圧子10の上部にはゴム製のキートップ11が取り付けられている。

【0016】上記実施例構造によれば、キートップ11を押圧すると、スプリング9に抗して押圧子10が下がり、感圧導電ゴム7が押圧子10の押圧部10Aによって加圧される。

【0017】これによって、感圧導電ゴム7の内部のカーボンの分布密度が高まると共に電極4に確実に接触するため、この荷重が大きい程抵抗値が小さくなる。

【0018】ここで、感圧導電ゴム10は平板状に形成してあるため、へたりや変形が少なく、耐久性が著しく向上する。また、押圧子10の押圧部10Aが球面状に形成されているため、加圧応力を集中させることができると共に押圧子10周辺への応力逃げが防止され安定した押圧力に対する抵抗値変化が得られる。

【0019】次に、図2に実験結果を示す。

【0020】図3に示すように押圧子10の押圧部10 Aが球面である場合と、図4に示すように押圧子8の押圧部8Aが平坦円である場合について、抵抗値(Q)と荷貫(g)との関係を関べてみると、加圧、除圧のヒステリシスが小さく特性が安定しているのは押圧部10Aが球面の方であることが明らかになった。尚、使用されたサンプルは球面の押圧部10Aのもの3種(半径R=2.5、5、10)と平坦円の押圧部8Aのもの(直径ゅ=5、10)の2種であった。また使用された基板1の電極4は、導体幅0.3mm、ピッチ0.6mmのものである。

【0021】この実験からも、押圧部が球面の押圧部の 方が安定した特性が得られることがわかる。

[0022]

【発明の効果】以上説明してきたようにこの発明によれば、板状の導電ゴムを用いているため、耐久性が高くなる。また押圧子の押圧部が球面状に形成されているため、除圧、加圧の際に加圧応力を集中させることができると共に押圧子周辺への応力逃げが防止され安定した抵抗値変化を得ることができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】この発明の一実施例の断面図。

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT REEXAMINATION PRIOR ART

Attorney Docket Number	6620-76454-10	
Patent Number	6,351,205	
Issued Date	February 26, 2002	
First Named Inventor	Brad A. Armstrong	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Copies of U.S. Patent documents do not need to be provided, unless requested by the Patent and Trademark Office. For patents, provide the patent number and the issue date. For published U.S. applications, provide the publication number and the publication date. For unpublished pending patent applications, provide the application number and the filing date.

Examiner's Initials*	Cite No. (optional)	Number	Publication Date	Name of Applicant or Patentee	
		4,353,552	October 12, 1982	Pepper	
		5,164,697	November 17, 1992	Kramer	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials*	COUDI		Number	Publication Date	Name of Applicant or Patentee	
		Great Britain	1 412 298	November 5, 1975	Knox	
		Japan	5-87760	November 26, 1993	Furukawa et al.	
		Japan	H1-40545	December 4, 1989	Kawashima et al.	
	 	Japan	S61-1000844	June 27, 1986	Kaneko et al.	
		Japan	S61-103836	July 2, 1986	Matsumoto	

Examiner's Initials*	Cite No. (optional)	OTHER DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER SIGNATURE:	DATE CONSIDERED:

^{*} Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through cite if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

【図2】間グラフ図。

【図3】テストピースの断面図。

【図4】従来技術に対応するテストピースの断面図。

【図5】従来技術の断面図。

【符号の説明】

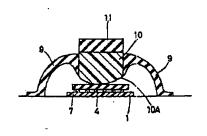
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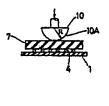
10…押圧子、10A…押圧部。

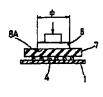
【図1】

【図3】

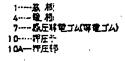
[図4]



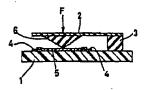




【図5】



【図2】.



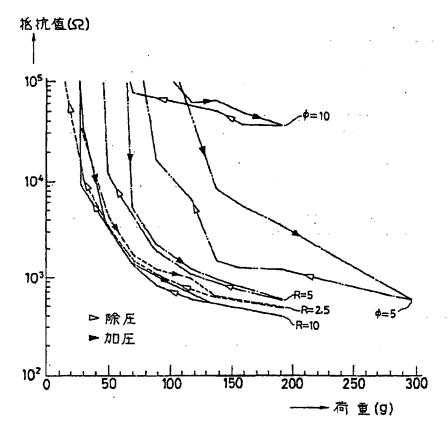


Exhibit 30 to the Request for Inter Partes Re-examination of

In re Patent No: 6,343,991

Issued: February 5, 2002

Applicant: Brad A. Armstrong

Title: Game Controllers with Analog Pressure Sensor(s)

(19) Japan Patent Office (JP)

(12) Laid Open Patent Publication (A)

(11)Laid Open Patent Application Publication No.

Laid Open Patent Application H05-190051

				(43) Publication date July 30, 1993
(51) Int. Cl ⁵	ID	Office Cont.	No. F1	Technical description
H01H 13/00	C	7250-5G		·
H01C 10/10	Α			
H01H 13/52	F	4235·5G		
		E	xamination	Apply No Number of claims 1 (total 3 pages)
(21) Appl. No.			(71) Applic	ant 000158840
Patent Appli	cation H04	-3464		Kinugawa Rubber Co., Ltd.
(22) Filing date	January 13	. 1992	1	330 Naganuma, Inage, Chiba-shi, Chiba
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(54) [Title of the invention] Pressure-sensitive switch

(57) [Abstract]

[Objective]

To improve durability and yield stable resistance.

[Construction]

A plate of pressure sensitive electro-conductive rubber 7 placed on electrodes 4 of a substrate 1 and a presser 10 having a spherical pressing part 10A for pressing the pressure-sensitive electro-conductive rubber 7 are provided.

[Claim]

[Claim 1]

A pressure-sensitive switch comprising a plate of electro-conductive rubber placed on the electrodes of a substrate and a presser having a spherical pressing part for pressing said electro-conductive rubber.

[Detailed explanation of the invention]

[0001]

[Scope of the invention]

The present invention relates to a pressure sensitive switch.

[0002]

[Prior art technology]

A switch shown in Fig.5 is among known switches.

[0003]

Here, a first substrate 1 supports a second substrate 2 in a cantilever manner via a spacer 3. Electrodes 4 on the substrate 1 are connected by a resistor 5. An electro-conductive rubber contact 6 of a triangular cross-section is attached to the tip of the second substrate 2 (Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. H02-275603).

[0004] With this switch, when a force F is applied to the tip of the second substrate 2, the second substrate 2 is bent and the contact 6 collapses on the resistor 5. As the force F is increased, the contact 6 collapses more and makes contact with the resistor 5 in a larger area. Therefore, the substantial length of the resistor 5 is reduced, decreasing its resistance.

[0005]

[Problems overcome by the invention]

However, in the prior art pressure sensitive switch described above, the contact 6 has a triangular cross-section at the tip, subjecting the contact 6 to fatigue or deformation after prolonged use.

[0006]

On the other hand, in another proposed structure, as shown in Fig.4, a plate of electro-conductive rubber 7 is placed on electrodes 4 of a substrate 1 and pressed from above by a presser 8. Here, the presser 8 has a flat pressing surface, with the problem that the pressing surface may be released unevenly upon removal of the pressure, therefore providing unstable resistance.

[0007]

Hence, the present invention provides a pressure-sensitive switch having durability and yielding stable resistance.

[8000]

[Problem resolution means]

A plate of electro-conductive rubber 7 placed on electrodes 4 of a substrate 1 and a presser 10 having a spherical pressing part 10A for pressing the electro-conductive rubber 7 are provided.

[0009]

[Efficacy]

The presser has a spherical pressing surface so as to concentrate the applied pressure stress and to prevent the stress from escaping to around the presser, yielding stable changes in resistance.

[0010]

[Embodiment]

An embodiment of the present invention is described hereafter with reference to the drawings.

[0011]

As shown in Fig.1, a pressure-sensitive electro-conductive rubber 7 made of a plate of electro-conductive rubber is placed on electrodes 4 of a substrate 1.

[0012]

The pressure sensitive electro-conductive rubber 7 is in the form of a plate made from 100 parts by weight of silicon rubber and 50 parts by weight of FET carbon with the addition of 2 parts by weight of a vulcanizing agent and having a thickness of approximately 1 mm. When pressured, the pressure sensitive electro-conductive rubber 7 has increased internal carbon density and makes secure contact with the electrodes 4, exhibiting decreased resistance.

[0013]

Facing the pressure sensitive electro-conductive rubber 7, a resin presser 10 is supported by a rubber spring 9 such that it is allowed to recover its posture.

[0014]

The presser 10 has a spherical pressing part 10A for pressing the pressure sensitive electro-conductive rubber 7.

[0015]

Here, the presser 10 has a rubber key top 11 at the top.

[0016]

In the above embodiment, when the key top 11 is pressed, the presser 10 is lowered against the spring 9 and the pressure sensitive electro-conductive rubber 7 is pressured by the pressing part 10A of the presser 10.

[0017]

Consequently, the pressure-sensitive electro-conductive rubber 7 has an increased internal carbon distribution density and makes secure contact with the electrodes 4, decreasing the resistance as the load is increased.

[0018]

The pressure-sensitive electro-conductive rubber 10 is in the form of a plate and, therefore, undergoes less fatigue, having significantly increased durability. The pressing part 10A of the presser 10 is spherical so as to concentrate the applied pressure stress and to prevent the stress from escaping around the presser 10, yielding stable changes in resistance for the applied pressure.

[0019]

Fig.2 shows the experimental results.

[0020]

The relationship between resistance (Ω) and load (g) was examined when the pressing part 10A of the presser 10 is spherical as shown in Fig.3 and when the pressing part 8A of the presser 8 is flat as shown in Fig.4. The spherical pressing part 10A obviously yielded minor hysteresis in applying and removing pressure and has stable properties. Here, three different spherical pressing parts 10A (radius = 2.5, 5, and 10) and two different flat pressing parts 8A (diameter $\phi = 5$ and 10) were used. The electrodes 4 of the substrate 1 used had an electro-conductive body width of 0.3 mm and a pitch of 0.6 mm.

[0021]

The above experiment showed that a presser having a spherical pressing part yields stable properties.

[0022]

[Efficacy of the invention]

As described above, in the present invention, a plate of electro-conductive rubber is used to improve durability. A presser having a spherical pressing part serves to concentrate the applied pressure stress in applying and removing pressure and prevents stress from escaping around the presser, yielding stable changes in resistance.

[Brief explanation of the drawings]

[Fig. 1] A cross-sectional view of an embodiment of the present invention.

[Fig.2] A graphical representation of the same.

[Fig.3] A cross-sectional view of a test piece.

[Fig. 4] A cross-sectional view of a test piece according to the prior art.

[Fig.5] A cross-sectional view of a prior art.

[Legend]

1 ... substrate, 4 ... electrode, 7 ... pressure sensitive electro-conductive rubber (electro-conductive rubber), 10 ... presser, 10A ... pressing part

[Fig.1]

1 ... substrate

4 ... electrode

7 ... pressure sensitive electro-conductive rubber (electro-conductive rubber)

10 ... presser

10A ... pressing part

[Fig.2]

ordinate: resistance (Ω) ; abscissa: load (g) depressuring pressuring

[Fig.3]

[Fig.4]

[Fig.5]

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

I Roger P. Lewis, whose address is 42 Bird Street North, Martinsburg WV 25401, declare and state the following:

I am well acquainted with the English and Japanese languages and have in the past translated numerous English/Japanese documents of legal and/or technical content.

I hereby certify that the Japanese translation of the attached translation of documents identified as:

Laid Open Patent Application H05-190051
"Pressure-sensitive switch"

is to the best of my knowledge and ability true and accurate.

I further declare that all statements contained herein of our own knowledge, are true, that all statements of information and belief are believed to be true.

ROGER P. LEWIS

September 26, 2006